

XXIII.—*On Spongiophaga in Spongilla.*

By H. J. CARTER, F.R.S. &c.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Edward Potts of Philadelphia, United States, I have received a present of twenty-four slides of different kinds of *Spongilla* for examination; and among them are at least four (I think six; but there are certainly four) that contain unmistakable evidence of the presence of a new species of *Spongiophaga*, which I desire to name after Mr. Potts, who brought it to my notice, "*Spongiophaga Pottsii*." The spongiophagous filament in this instance rises by one (the broad) end from a prolongation of the chitinous coat through the hilous opening of the seed-like body or statoblast of *Spongilla*, and, after twisting about for some time, gradually becomes diminished in thickness to an almost immeasurable point or irregular termination—thus *not* ending in a bulb at each end, like the marine species *Spongiophaga communis* ('Annals,' 1878, vol. ii. p. 168), but in other respects identical with it. Apparently from two to four filaments are extended from the prolongation mentioned, webbed together at their origin, like the arms of a Cephalopod; and, besides being found in a *new* species of *Spongilla* from a small stream in the Centennial Grounds of Philadelphia, it also occurs in the same species from Bethlehem, about fifty miles distant; while two other slides, each bearing specimens of *Meyenia* (*Spongilla*) *Baileyi*, Bk., from Buffalo, Lake Erie, appear to be equally affected by the same (if not still another) species. The existence of *Spongiophaga* in the fresh- as well as in the salt-water sponges is thus substantiated. Whether it belongs to the animal or vegetable kingdom, no one yet has been able to find out, although it is perfectly evident that the marine species destroys the sponge which is infested by it. It is to be hoped that Mr. Potts, who, like Lieberkühn with the marine species, is under the impression that it is part of the sponge itself (*op. et loc. cit.*), will, under the advantage of a medium which is much more manageable than sea-water, be able to trace its development, and thereby tell us something more about it, if not what it really is. Meanwhile I hope before long to state more in detail, with illustrations, that which I can make out of this enigmatical organism from the slides.

XXIV.—*On some Mammals from Kandahar.*

By J. SCULLY.

LIEUT.-COL. C. SWINHOE lately intrusted to me for examination a small collection of mammals which he made in the